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**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**For the Year 1937.**

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**Douglas Bell, M.B., Ch.B., (Edin.)**

**D.P.H., Royal College of Surgeons, Edin.**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

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**Scisbett:**

**HIRST BUCKLEY & Co., CUTTLEHURST MILLS,**

**1938**



# Skelmanthorpe Urban District Council.

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

### Year ending December 31st, 1937.

TO THE SKELMANTHORPE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

The health of your district has been good after the influenza epidemic which lasted for 8-10 weeks in the beginning of the year. Freedom from infectious disease should be noted as very satisfactory.

The area of your district is 1,165 acres. The population—estimated by the Registrar General is 3,473.

Inhabited houses number 1,075 of which 996 may be classed as working class.

Rateable value is £12172. One penny rate brings in £49

**Social Conditions.** The main occupation in your area is in plush mills and fur fabric materials. There are some employed at two small pits outside the area. Unemployment has not been severe and there is little or no poverty in the area.

#### Vital Statistics.

Live births: 15 Male, 19 Female—34, giving a birth rate of 9.79, compared with 14.9 for England and Wales

Still births: 1, giving a rate per 1000 total births of 28.5.

Deaths: 51, giving a death rate per 1000 of the estimated population of 14.6.

Deaths from puerperal causes: Nil

Death rate of infants under 1 year: 4—1 male, 3 female, giving a rate of 117.6 per 1000 live births.

Deaths from Cancer, all ages: 5. Measles, 0. Whooping Cough, 0.

Diarrhoea under 2 years: 0.

**Housing.** The occupation of the new housing estate is now complete and it is noted that the health and comfort of those removed to the area are greatly improved. The conditions are greatly appreciated in the large majority of cases and those who were inclined to grumble at the outset have now come to realize the benefits of fresh air and sunlight as opposed to the conditions under which they formerly lived.

Other reports on Housing, Table C, and Sanitary Inspector's Report are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DOUGLAS BELL, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

# Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1937.

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## **Skelmanthorpe Sanitary District,**

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### **CASES NOTIFIED OR OTHERWISE ASCERTAINED :**

Scarlet Fever, 1  
Diphtheria including Mem. Croup, 2  
Erysipelas 1  
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal), 4  
Respiratory Tuberculosis (New cases only), 0  
Other Forms of Tuberculosis (New cases only), 0

### **CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL :**

Scarlet Fever, 1  
Diphtheria, 1

Chickenpox, Measles and Whooping Cough. Please state if any of these diseases were made compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1937 and if so, during what period.—No.

Signed,

DOUGLAS BELL, M.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

# Report of the Sanitary Inspector, 1937.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Investigating complaints	...	...	...	...	19
Property under notice	...	...	...	...	71
Work in progress	...	...	...	...	63
Premises in course of erection	...	...	...	...	30
Disinfecting and enquiries after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	5
Workshops and Bakehouses...	...	...	...	...	7
Slaughter-houses, inspecting meat	...	...	...	...	168
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	50
Shops, under Shops Act, sections 10 and 13	...	...	...	...	2
Swimming bath	...	...	...	...	4
Houses measuring for "permitted number" of persons					135
Interviews with Owners	...	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous premises	...	...	...	...	120
					706

## Defects and Nuisances Found (Affecting 63 premises)

Drains defective	...	...	...	...	9
,, requiring connecting to the sewer				...	1
Privy closets requiring conversion	...	...	...	...	20
,, „ „ repair	...	...	...	...	4
Additional W.C. accommodation required				...	7
Lack of Ashbins	...	...	...	...	4
Waste pipes defective	...	...	...	...	2
Sinks defective	...	...	...	...	7
Wall defective causing dampness	...	...	...	...	1
Roofing defective	...	...	...	...	2
Eaves spout defective	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness of walls due to contact with earth				...	2
Yard paving defective	...	...	...	...	1
Windows not made to open	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisance from rabbit keeping	...	...	...	...	1
,, „ trade effluent	...	...	...	...	1
,, „ dirty condition of house	...	...	...	...	1
,, „ coal-gas entering house	...	...	...	...	1

71

Of these defects, 52 were remedied and also 36 defects outstanding from previous years.

**Public Cleansing.** This work is under the control of the Surveyor and is carried out by the Council's workmen with hired motor vehicles. There are few cesspools in the district and no special arrangements exist for cleansing them. The bye-laws in force place this duty upon the occupiers of the premises.

**Rag Flock Acts 1911 and 1928.** There are no premises in the district where rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

**Meat Inspection.** There are 5 private slaughter-houses in the district but one is used very occasionally. Inspection of meat is carried out when ever possible at the time of slaughter. The premises where made-up foods are prepared are maintained in a satisfactory manner. The Meat Regulations generally are observed.

**Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933** Licences are in force with respect to 9 slaughtermen. Sheep are included as animals to which Section 1 of the Act applies with respect to the use of a mechanically operated stunning instrument.

**Milk Supply.** The premises and cows have generally been maintained in a satisfactory condition. There are no producers of designated milk in the area and no applications have been made for licences.

Veterinary examination of the cows has been carried out on three occasions by the County Council's Veterinary Officer who was accompanied on these occasions by your Sanitary Inspector.

The following particulars have been supplied by the Chief Veterinary Officer of cows dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order:—

- 1 Cow affected with tuberculosis of the Udder, found on routine inspection.
- 1 Cow with chronic cough and showing definite clinical symptoms, reported by owner, Total 2.

**Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928.** This work is usually carried out by the County Council's Food and Drugs Officers, and the following particulars have been supplied of the samples taken taken by them for analysis:

Milk 17; General foods 6. One milk vendor was cautioned for selling milk which contained only 2.96 per cent of milk fat.

**Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding Provisions).** The duty of measuring up all the working class houses as required by this Act, is still proceeding. This information is required in order to furnish the landlords with the "permitted number" of persons which has to be inserted in the rent books in the prescribed form.

The "appointed day" was fixed in this area for the 1st July 1936, requiring the entries in the rent books to be made before the 1st January, 1937.

Further details relating to the Sanitary Administration of the district are contained in Tables "C" and "D."

Your obedient servant,

F. GREENWOOD, C.R.S.I.,  
Sanitary Inspector.

Office—Council Room, Shepley,

Tele: Kirkburton 126.  
(At residence, Hall Syke, Shepley)

Joint Sanitary Inspector to the Skelmanthorpe, Denby & Cumberworth, Shepley, Clayton West, and Shelley Urban District Councils

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1937, for the  
URBAN DISTRICT OF SKELMANTHORPE  
In the COUNTY of YORK (WEST RIDING).  
on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act,  
1901, in connection with

# Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

# Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors  
or Inspectors of Nuisances

		Inspections.
Factories, including Factory Laundries	...	... 0
Workshops, including Workshop Laundries	...	... 7
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	...	... 0
Total	...	... 7

Written Notices—Nil. Occupiers prosecuted—Nil.

## Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces —Nil.

Outwork in unwholesome premises Section 108,  
—Nil

Signed, DOUGLAS BELL, M.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

# TABLE C, 1937.

## Skelmanthorpe Urban Sanitary District.

### NUISANCE INSPECTIONS—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1937, for Nuisances only—706  
For Housing Inspections see Table D

Nuisances found in 1937—71	Total needing abatement—161
Nuisances in hand, end of 1936—90	Abated during 1937—90
	Outstanding end of 1937—71
Notices served, Informal—18	Complied with—11
Notices served, Statutory—0.	Complied with—0
Total No. of Summons or other Legal Proceedings—0	

### REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.—

	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made	General Conditions
Common Lodging Houses	0	0	0	
Houses let in Lodgings	0	0	0	
Canal Boats	0	0	0	
Knackers' Yards	0	0	0	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	1	0	0	good
Offensive Trades	1	1	0	fair
Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades ?				
—No				

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

Particulars of any sewer extensions during 1937—Nil

Details of any portion of district still requiring—

(a) Sewering—Nil

(b) Improvement of defective sewers—Nil

No. of houses not connected to sewers—28

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS—

Particulars of any extensions made during 1937—Nil

Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works—No

Any complaint from West Riding Rivers Board—No

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

No. of Privies with open middens—1

No. of Pail or Tub Closets—2

No. of Privies with covered middens—637

No. of Water Closets—715      Waste-water Closets—0

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1937—(a) as W.C.'s 21 ;  
(b) other, 0

No. of Closets, other than Privies, reconstructed during 1937 as W.C.s  
—0

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1937—(a) W.C.'s 9 ; (b) other 0

No. of Closets constructed in 1937 for new houses—(a) W.C.'s 24 ;  
(b) other 0

Any special action being taken by Council to secure conversion of  
privies, waste water closets and pails to W.C. system—No

## SCAVENGING—

Is public scavenging in operation throughout the whole district?—Yes  
How is refuse disposed of?—1, Destruction 0%; 2, By tipping, 100%  
3, Farmers, 0%

Total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse—£377/0/0  
If tipping is in operation, is it on the controlled system?—No

## WATER SUPPLY—

Source of supply—The Councils service reservoir fed from the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Water Board's undertakings

By whom distributed—The District Council

No. of houses on public supply—1054

Any extension of supply during the year?—No

Has supply been satisfactory?

(a) In quality—Yes

(b) In quantity—Yes

Any examinations made during the year—(a) Chemical—0

(b) Bacteriological—0

Have any supplies been restricted or closed?—No

## MILK SUPPLY—

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (8) of the 1922 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act?—(a) For Retailers—Yes  
(b) For Cow-keepers or Wholesale Traders—Yes

Have any retailers been removed from the Register?—No

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936—

1. No. of Licences in force in the area for:

(a) Production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk—0

(b) Production of "Accredited Milk"—0

(c) In respect of Pasteurising Plant—0

Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically—0

No. of Milk samples taken by Officers of local authority for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928—0

No. of samples of ordinary Milk taken by Officers of local authority for: (a) Methylene blue test—0 (b) presence of tuberculosis—0

Any special examination of Milk for Dirt, e.g. sedimentation test?—No

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1937?—No

No. of Cowkeepers in District—10 No. Registered—10

Total No. of Cowsheds—15 Total No. of Milk Cows—97

Total No. of cowsheds inspected during the year—15

Total No. of Cowshed Inspections—50

No. of Wholesale Traders Registered—1

No. of Retail Milk Sellers Registered—13

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk—Generally conditions can only be described as fair, especially with regard to the smaller farms. Only one farm has a properly equipped dairy. Four other farms have milk rooms but no sterilising apparatus.

## MEAT INSPECTION—

Any Public Abattoir?—No

Total No. of private slaughterhouses—5, made up of 0 registered and 5 licensed

No. unsatisfactory, either as regards structure, position or in other respects—0

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED—

Number inspected—Cattle (excluding cows) 220, Cows 4, Calves 1,  
Sheep and Lambs 365, Pigs 207  
All diseases except Tuberculosis—  
Whole carcasses condemned—0  
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned—Cattle 3,  
Pigs 2  
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than  
tuberculosis—Cattle 1.3 per cent. Pigs 0.9 per cent.  
Tuberculosis only—  
Whole carcasses condemned—0  
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned—Cattle 4  
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis—  
Cattle 1.8 per cent.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924—

Meat Marking: Is scheme in force under above?—No

### OTHER FOODS—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officers of L.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928—0  
No. of Bakehouses in district—5 Total inspections—5  
Are any bakehouses underground—No

### SCHOOLS—

No. of Schools in District—4 No. visited by M.O.H.—1  
Action taken—None  
Schools closed by M.O.H.—None

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

No. of Smoke observations each of 30 minutes duration taken during 1937—0

### SHOPS ACT 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3)—

No. of visits paid under the above Act during 1937—2  
Unsatisfactory conditions found—0

### TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.—

No. in District—1 Is this class of dwelling showing signs of increase?  
—No  
Have Council made bye-laws under Section 268 (4), Public Health Act, 1936?—No  
Any action under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936?—No  
Has any trouble been experienced in controlling this type of dwelling?  
—No.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS—

No. of Council houses found to be infested—0 Other houses found to be infested—0  
What methods are employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs?  
—Fumigation with a proprietary fumigant or spraying  
What methods are employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses?—Van fumigation with H.C.N. carried out by a contractor

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS—

Are there any in the district:—

- (a) Any public swimming baths or pool—No
- (b) Any privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public  
—Yes, one modern bath owned by the trustees of a miners' welfare fund

If so, give brief particulars of each and state what action is taken to ensure satisfactory condition of the water—A mechanical filtration and chlorination apparatus operated on the continuous system is installed

(c) Any samples of bath examined, apart from samples submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory—No

#### ADOPTIVE ACTS in force in District—

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890—Part 3

” ” ” 1907—Parts 2, 3, 4, 5

Public Health Act, 1925—Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, except section 44

Private Street Works Act, 1892—The whole

Subject as from the 1st October, 1937 to the amendment and repeal of certain provisions by the Public Health Act, 1936

#### BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS in force in District

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements,	...	1926
Prevention of Nuisances	...	Do
New Streets and Buildings	...	Do
Slaughterhouses	...	Do
Houses let in lodgings	...	Do
Common Lodging Houses	...	Do
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	Do
Drainage	...	Do
Means of escape from fire at factories	...	Do
Smoke Abatement	...	1928

#### INFANT MORTALITY—

Any suggestions?—No

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1937?—None

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES—

Diseases specially prevalent in 1937—None

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—No

Any influences threatening the health of the District?—None

Any arrangements for nursing Puerperal Fever cases? (for areas autonomous under the M & C.W. Act, 1918) At Home—No

In Hospital—If necessary, Huddersfield Infirmary and Wakefield Maternity Hospital

#### ISOLATION HOSPITALS—

General Infectious Diseases—Kirkburton Joint Isolation Hospital

Any change or extension in 1937—No

Any disease in addition to scarlet fever, enteric fever or diphtheria (e.g. pneumonia) treated in infectious diseases hospital—No

Name of authority controlling—Kirkburton Joint Isolation Hospitals Committee

Smallpox—Kirkburton Joint Smallpox Hospital

Any change or extension in 1937—No

Name of authority controlling—Kirkburton Joint Isolation Hospitals Committee

#### GENERAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS—

(a) General and Accident—Huddersfield Royal Infirmary  
Children's—Do

(b) Local: Hospital, Cottage—Nil

(c) Maternity (Homes)—Nil

## AMBULANCE SERVICES—

For General Sick and Accident cases—

Location of Ambulance: Kirkburton

Ownership: Messrs. Hepworth Bros.

Type of Ambulance: Motor

Arrangements for Nurse to accompany patient: None

Charges (if any) to patients in district: 9d. per running mile

For General Infectious Disease cases—

Location of Ambulance: Hospital

Ownership: Hospital Committee

Type of Ambulance: Motor

Arrangements for Nurse to accompany patient: Hospital Nurse

Charges (if any) to patients in district: Nil

For Smallpox—As for General Infectious Disease cases

If ambulance of another Authority is used please state terms and conditions—The privately owned ambulance used for general sick and accident cases is subsidised by a group of local authorities.

The owners of the ambulance collect the charges

## MORTUARIES. What accommodation—

(a) for accidents—A mortuary is attached to the Council Offices

(b) for infectious cases other than at hospital—Nil

(c) for other cases—The above-mentioned mortuary

(d) for post mortem examinations—Do.

Any suggestions made by M.O.H.—None

## BACTERIOLOGY—

County Laboratory. Any Suggestions—None

## BURNING SPOIL BANKS. Any nuisance therefrom?—No

## SANITARY STAFF—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.—£40

Name of Sanitary Inspector—Frederick Greenwood

Annual Salary as Inspector—£91/0/0

Other appointments held—Sanitary Inspector for four neighbouring districts

Salary of such other appointments—£234/0/0

Any Assistants?—No Is Staff sufficient?—No

Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?—Yes

## TABLE D.

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

**1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :**

*a* Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—14

*b* Number of inspections made for the purpose—46

**2** *a* Number of dwelling-houses, included under sub-head 1 above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations—14

*b* Number of Inspections made for the purpose—46

**3** Number of dwelling-houses needing further action—14

*a* Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—5

*b* Number (excluding those in sub-head 3 *a* above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—9

**2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—17

**3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :**

**A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1936 :**

**1** Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—0

**2** Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ;

*a* By owners—0

*b* By Local Authority in default of owners—0

**B Proceedings under Public Health Acts :**

**1** Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—0

**2** Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

*a* By owners—0

*b* By Local Authority in default of owners—0

**C Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936**

**1** Number of representations, etc. made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation—1

**2** Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—1

**3** Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—0

**D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936**

**1** Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made—0

**2** Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit—0

#### 4. *Unhealthy Areas.*

Have any areas been declared Clearance Areas during the year 1937?  
—A group of 7 houses with a population of 16 persons has been scheduled for consideration as a Clearance Area, (six of these houses are included under paragraph 1 (3))

#### 5. *Number of new houses erected during 1937.*

- a* By the Local Authority—11
- b* By private enterprise—13

Total—24

#### 6. *Housing Conditions.*

- 1 Total number of houses in the District—1075
- 2 Number of working class houses included in the above—996
- 3 General observations as to housing conditions, overcrowding, and shortage of houses:—The general standard is fair but the standard is being improved by the carrying out of Clearance schemes. The shortage of houses is being overcome by the Council's building schemes.
- 4 Any special activity in house building? If so, where?—During the year the erection of 60 houses was commenced by the Council on an existing site at Windmill Crescent and on a new site in the Scissett area. Eleven of these houses have been completed and the remainder are approaching completion. Of these houses 38 are for rehousing families displaced by Clearance Orders and 22 for rehousing overcrowded families.
- 5 Any housing scheme projected by Local Authority?—No
- 6 Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936?—No

#### 7. *Town Planning.*

- 1 Is the Council a member of any Regional Town Planning Committee?—No
- 2 Is a Town Planning Scheme in force?—No
- 3 Have Council during 1937 passed a Resolution deciding to prepare a Town Planning Scheme?—No

#### 8. Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspection under the Housing Consolidated Regulations—

Frederick Greenwood, Sanitary Inspector,  
Council Room, Shepley, nr. Huddersfield

#### 9. Has any action been taken to improve the housing conditions of tuberculous families in your District, either by way of building new or special houses, or the granting of special facilities for such families to be housed?—No

#### 10. *Housing Act, 1936, Part iv, Overcrowding.*

- (a) 1 Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year—31
- 2 Number of families dwelling therein—34
- 3 Number of persons dwelling therein—193
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year—5
- (c) 1 Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year—23
- 2 Number of persons concerned in such cases—139
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding—None
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report—



